

B-3492 - B-3504

1842-1880/1872

143-103 E. Cross St. (South side)/ 124-126 Weber St. (North side)

Baltimore, Md.

Private access

The south side of the 100 block of E. Cross St. is one of the most interesting blocks in the southern section of Federal Hill, containing as it does almost every variety of house type built in the area between the 1840's and the 1880's. At 139-143 E. Cross St., at the eastern end of the block, there is a row of late Victorian style, two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices. The houses, which sit on high basements, with basement kitchens, were built just before 1880. To the west, at 137 E. Cross St. there is a similar two story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof, but with no extant roof cornice, built about the same time. 135 and 133 E. Cross St. have been torn down, but at 131 E. Cross there is a two and a half story, two bay wide, late Federal style brick house located next to a pair of similar two and a half story frame houses at 127-129 E. Cross St. The survival of a frame house in this section of the city is quite unusual. All three houses seem to have been built in the 1840's or 1850's. Continuing west, one encounters a pair of two story plus attic, two bay wide brick houses at 123-125 E. Cross St., built about 1850; a late Victorian style, two story, three bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice at 121 E. Cross St., an 1880's remodeling of an original 1840's house; and, at 117-119 E. Cross St., a pair of originally two story, two bay wide gable-roofed houses built in the mid 1840's, one of which (117) has since been enlarged and is now three stories in height with a shed roof and bracketed cornice. At 113-115 E. Cross St. there is another pair of two story plus attic brick houses, built in the mid 1840's by John S. Gittings, and at 111 E. Cross St. there is a two story, two bay wide gable-roofed house built by Gittings in the early 1850's. Further west, at 109 E. Cross St. there is yet another two story plus attic house, followed by a pair of two and a half story, two bay wide, late Federal style brick houses at 105-107 E. Cross St., and then another two story plus attic house at 103 E. Cross St. The four latterly described houses were all built in the early 1840's by William Addison, a local house carpenter. At 124-126 Weber St., there is a pair of two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices, built in 1872 by Charles and Augustus Weber, leaders of the German community in Baltimore at this time. The houses are the only survivors of an original row of such houses built along the north side of Weber St. at this time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

139-143 E. Cross St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #: 555-1234

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3492

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This row of two story, two bay brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices are the second structures to occupy this site, replacing a row of two story, gable roofed houses sometime in the 1870's.

The houses are two stories in height, 11 1/2' wide, and occupy lots 51 1/2' deep. Each house has a one story high, one bay deep frame rear addition and a second story, one bay wide and deep frame bathroom addition that projects out over the rear yard (located in the westernmost bay, whereas the one story addition is located in the easternmost bay). The houses are constructed in running bond. The shed roof is capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding set above panels decorated with scroll-sawed motifs and bordered by a row of spaced, quarter-round carvings and a lower molding strip. Three carved wooden brackets per house support the cornice and connect it to a lower molding strip. The brick freize area thus formed is punctuated by two scroll-sawed ventilating panels per house. Each house has a hooded chimney located along both the front and rear sections of the west side of the house.

All of the door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels with scroll-sawed tympanums. The sills are wood. All of the window openings are filled with the original 2/2 double hung sash. 1139 and 141 Cross St. have modern flush doors and 143 Cross has a modern six panel door. All of the doors are set beneath single light transoms. The houses sit on high basements, the entrances being reached by six wood steps each, set parallel to the street. Each house has a rectangular basement opening located to the right of the steps, and a door set below street level, leading to the basement, located directly under the front door.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-3492

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1870-1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William J. Cole?

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This group of houses is representative of a large group of such two story, Victorian style houses built in the 1870's and 1880's in this section of Federal Hill (particularly to the north-east along Riverside Ave. and Cross and Grindall Sts.) to accommodate the rapidly growing number of workers (many of whom were recent immigrants) employed in the nearby shipyards, packing plants, and factories located along the waterfront east of Covington St. These houses are notable for their small scale, yet decorative amenities such as the elaborately scroll-sawed exterior cornice, which could easily be manufactured by machine. This type of house was usually rented. The houses are two rooms deep with the kitchen located in the basement, with an entrance leading from the street at the front of the house. The wooden stairs set parallel to the street probably represent the original type of stairs used in these houses.

The houses seem to have been built by William J. Cole, an attorney, who held the lot located at the south-west corner of William and Cross Sts., first in trust from Catherine Drake, widow of William Drake who had obtained the property in 1824, and then (from Catherine Drake's death in 1850) on his own right.¹ In 1883 the three houses were sold in a court case involving Cole to an absentee landlord.² William Drake was a ropemaker and grocer, who lived across the street on the north-west corner of William and Cross Sts. in the late 1820's, 1830's.³

¹ Baltimore City Land Records, Liber TK 329, Folio 361; ED 99, Folio 412

² Ibid., Liber RTA 987, Folio 5

³ Baltimore City Directory, 1829, 1833, 1840-1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11'4" x 51'6"

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

V. SECTION

EASEMENT

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

STREET & NUMBER

5/79

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

RuxtonMaryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

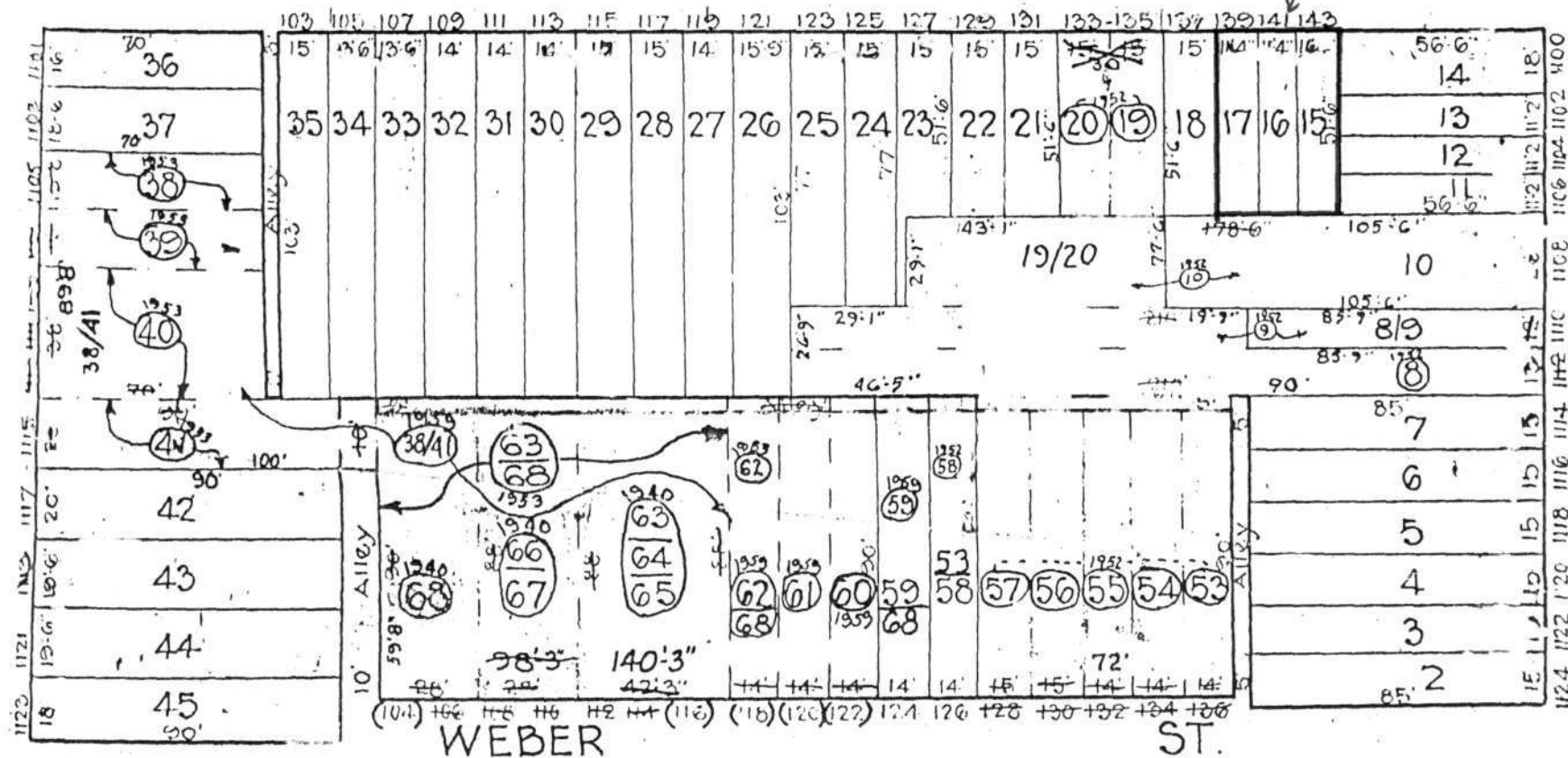
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

E. CROSS

ST.

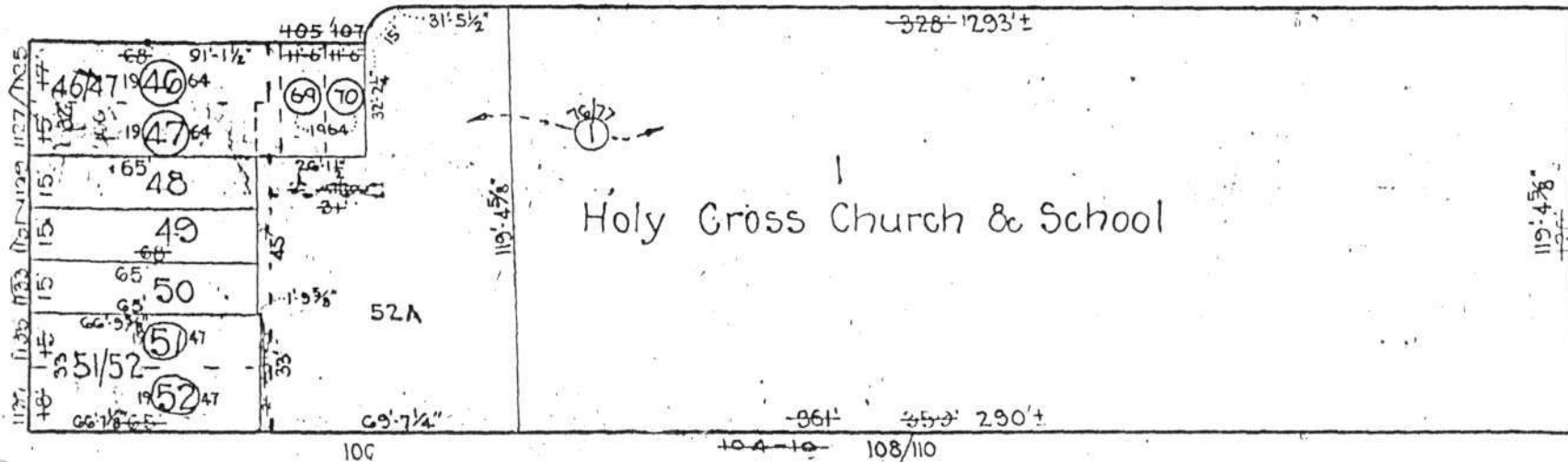
B-3442



WEBER

ST.

LIGHT

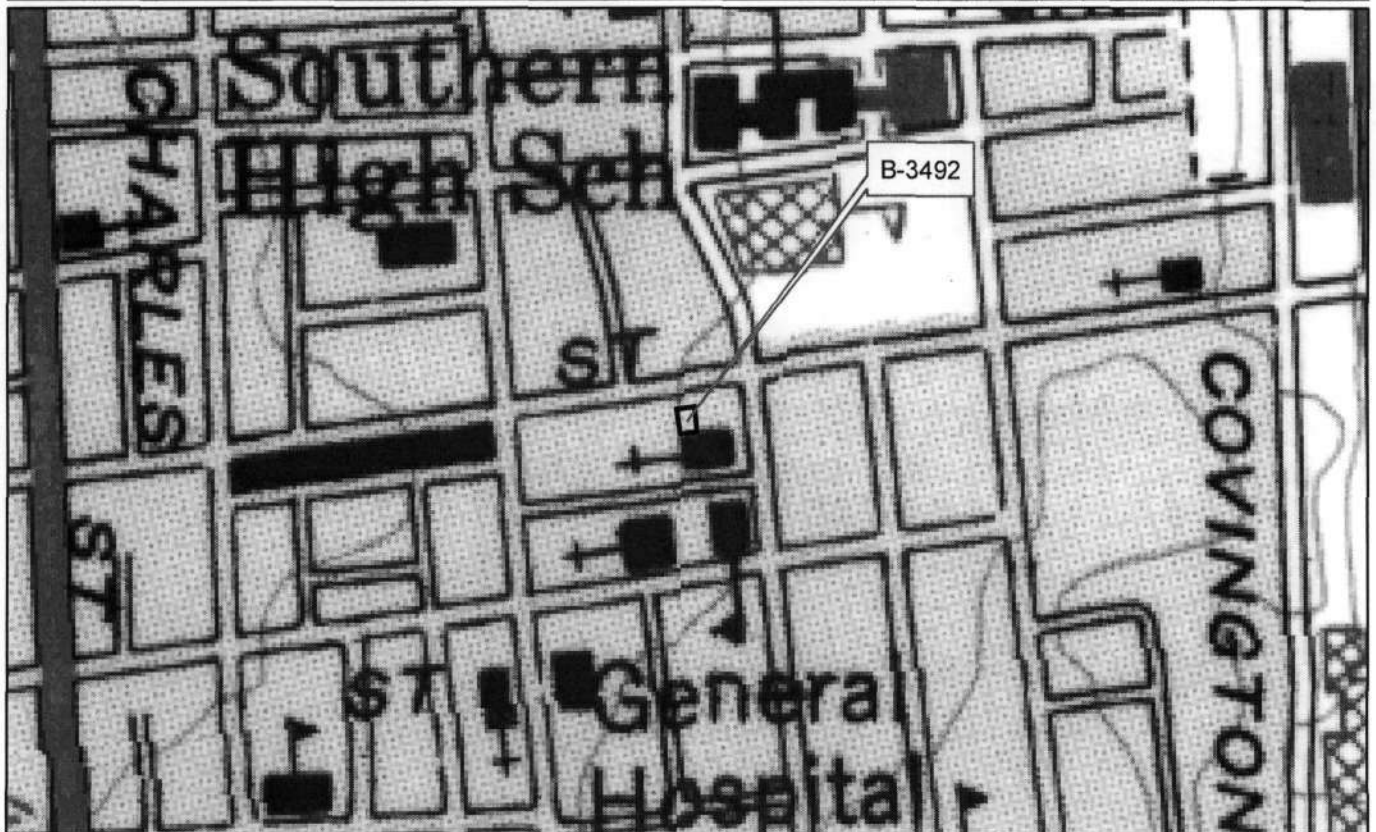


Holy Cross Church & School

E. WEST

WILLIAM

B-3492
139-143 E. Cross Street
Block 0951 Lot 017-015
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3492

139-143 E. Cross St.

- M.E.H. -

5/79

North elevation



B-3492

143 E. Cross St.

- M.E.H. -

5/79

North elevation